



Community Newsletter **TOWN OF MESILLA**

April 2013

A Message From Our Mayor

Dear Mesilla Residents,

Happy Spring! It has been an honor and privilege serving as your mayor these past 3 years. With springtime upon us, I reflect on the Town of Mesilla's activities, achievements and completions over the past 3 years. The town has done well and continues moving forward.

A short overview of some achievements within the last two years: The community center has seen a complete makeover of its exterior and interior. On April 17th we will host an open house/ribbon cutting ceremony to showcase the renovations of the center. On Tuesday, March 19th, the Mesilla Firefighters stood outside the Public Safety Building eagerly awaiting the arrival of the new fire truck. Observing Chief Hoban and the firefighters' excitement was priceless.

Through grant monies, the Marshal's department has updated some of their equipment and purchased a couple of vehicles. The Public Works Department has also purchased much needed equipment for their department, worked on improvements to the public parks and attended numerous training sessions. Additionally, around the community, roads have been paved and sewer lines were installed on the south side of Calle de Guadalupe.

The town is in the process of renovating the kiosk and rewiring around the plaza. We have requested funding through our legislators for renovations of the Public Safety Building and we are very hopeful that our governor will sign the bill. The list goes on, and I am extremely thankful for the collaboration between the Board of Trustees and Department Heads.

Our main focus has been to keep a balanced budget and continue to address the needs of the Town of Mesilla. Our biggest challenge continues to be infrastructure needs for the town. We continue looking for funding sources to address the town's infrastructure needs. The town has old and aged water and sewer lines that need to be replaced. Public Works has had to repair and/or replace these water lines throughout the town. Sadly, we do not have the needed funds available to replace entire water and sewer lines.

In preparing the budget for 2013-14, we will continue to be conservative. The economy is still down and in preparing the budget we will have very few changes to the proposed budget. One area we will focus on will be Tourism. We know how important it is to promote the Town of Mesilla and encourage out of town and out of state persons to visit our community. Ashley Echavarria,

Community Programs Director, has worked numerous hours redesigning the Town of Mesilla website and hopefully, this will assist in drawing visitors to the town.

I would like to thank and applaud the Planning, Zoning and Historical Appropriateness Commission and Carolyn Dixon, along with the Amigos for their devotion and commitment to the Town of Mesilla. The numerous volunteer hours they devote to the Town of Mesilla is sincerely appreciated.

This past year two of our former mayors passed away: Roberto Fietze and Nelson Clayshulte, Jr. We commit to memory their loyalty, dedication, affection and contributions to the Town of Mesilla.

I continue to work honestly and tirelessly along with the Board of Trustees, constituents, staff and business owners to bring issues for discussion and to develop plans that address the concerns and needs of our community. I ask for your patience and support as we continue to work together to make our town a great place to live, work and raise our families. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your mayor.

Sincerely,

Nora L. Barrag

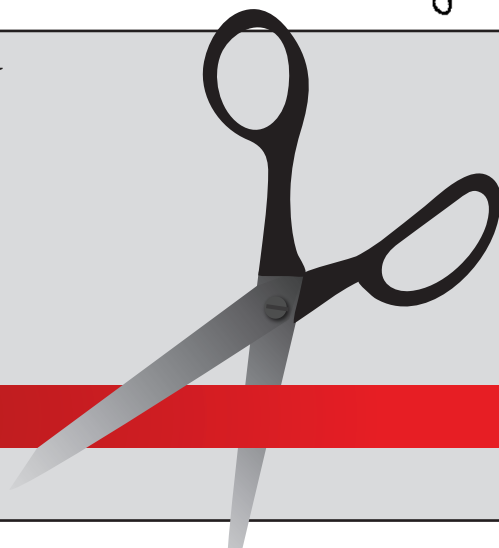
RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

Join us in celebrating the newly renovated

Mesilla Community Center

Wednesday, April 17 at 2 p.m.

2251 Calle de Santiago



Town of Mesilla Finance Department

The Town Finance Department works diligently everyday for the citizens of Mesilla and any other person/organization that may need our assistance. All staff members have an open door policy. If there are ever any questions do not hesitate to stop by our offices for help.

Goals for fiscal year 2012-2013 (FY12-13):

- ✓ Remain on-track with the approved budget, all departments will be asked to report on a monthly basis.
- ✓ Implementation of an online bill payment module has been brought up on several occasions and is finally coming to fruition thanks to Ashley Echavarria, Community Events Coordinator.
- ✓ The FY12-13 budget general fund expenditures are on track as of 3-11-13.
- ✓ Unfortunately, our gross receipts tax revenue is down slightly from what we projected. We are hoping the next three months bring us back the level we need to be at. Gross receipts tax revenues, of which the Town of Mesilla is highly dependent on for operations are a significant part of our operating budget.
- ✓ Continuing to look at effective ways to invest Town of Mesilla money with the NM State investment pool.
- ✓ The FY11-12 audit was completed by Town staff in a timely manner; unfortunately our auditor ran into some personal health issues and was not able to turn in the audit to the State Auditor's Office on time. We are evaluating our options for the FY12-13 audit and may be searching for a new audit firm.
- ✓ As always the Finance Department is looking for ways to save money and be as conservative as possible on spending tax payer monies. One of the options we are investigating is to take advantage of the historically low loans rates in order to refinance our Town Hall loan and realize significant savings.

Town of Mesilla Administration & Finance Department (524-3262)

Nora L. Barraza, Mayor (ext. 106)
Nick Eckert, Town Clerk/Treasurer (ext. 105)
Gloria Maya, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer (ext. 115)

Pam Bateman, Accounts Payable/Utility Clerk
Eva Manzanares, Utility Clerk Assistant

Town of Mesilla Marshal's Department

The Marshal's Department is currently enforcing the new vehicle seizure/forfeiture ordinance that will allow Mesilla officers to seize and possibly forfeit offender's vehicles. This ordinance will assist the court system by taking away the opportunity for repeat offenders to reoffend by ignoring implemented court orders due to repeat DWI convictions. The vehicles will be housed in a secure location and only released to the registered owner or the fiscally responsible owners.

The Marshal's Office is continuing with the Stonegarden operations as well as DWI saturation patrols with awarded funding for these overtime projects. The Town of Mesilla is still offering Safety Restraint class that will allow drivers cited for seatbelt violations to attend a class as an alternative to an impact to their driving record. This alternative class can only be awarded through the court with an agreement with the presiding judge. The class will be held once a month depending on class sizes.

The department has made great strides in the professional and positive attitudes of the officers towards the people of the Town of Mesilla and the visiting public but does want remind people that safety is number one and asks the commuting drivers to please obey the speed limits signs and all school zones because the life you save may be someone you know and love. And as always it only takes 5 seconds to assure your child is safely buckled.

Town of Mesilla Marshal's Department (526-4138)

Jeff Gray, Marshal
Heriberto Flores, Lieutenant
Ben Azcarate, Deputy Marshal
Nick Hervol, Deputy Marshal

Enrique Salas, Deputy Marshal
**Lance Shepan, Deputy Marshal/
School Resource Officer**
Isaac Martinez, Reserve Officer

Town of Mesilla Community Development Department

The Community Development Department is responsible for many functions. These include all planning and zoning activities, building plan review, permitting and inspections, subdivisions, and code enforcement. Additionally, the Community Development Department processes all business registrations. Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, the Town's new Community Development Coordinator, looks forward to working with all residents on their current needs.

Codes Enforcement:

It has been a while since there has been strong codes enforcement in the Town of Mesilla. If you are not aware of the codes within the Town or have questions regarding codes or possible violations, please contact the Community Development staff. The Community Development staff would also like to remind businesses that sandwich boards are not allowed within the town's right of way. Please, do not place your business signs in the middle of the sidewalk to where

pedestrians are forced to walk in the roadway to get around your sign. This will no longer be tolerated within Town limits.

The Community Development staff is working to keep weeds, stagnant water, trash, inoperative vehicles and other codes violations to a minimum. Please be diligent about keeping these conditions under control for

your health and safety as well as for the health and well-being of the community and your neighbors. If you are unable to resolve the issue within the allotted time frame, do not hesitate to call the Community Development Coordinator in order to discuss the issue. Above all else, let's work together to keep our community safe and healthy at all times.

SPRING IS HERE WATCH YOUR WATERING

The Town is facing drought conditions this summer and would like to remind residents that we have a water conservation ordinance in place (13.25.22). All outdoor vegetation on residential and commercial properties located on the even-numbered side of the street shall be watered only on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and on the odd-numbered side of the street shall be watered only on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. For corner buildings or properties

having both odd and even numbers, the number shown on the utility records shall control. From May 1st to September 30th, all outdoor watering of vegetation is prohibited between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Waste of water will not be tolerated. If you own a vacant lot or vacant property, do not forget that those lots also need tender loving care on occasion and are also held to the same code as all other residences within Town limits.

PLANNING & ZONING SCHEDULE OF DEADLINES AND MEETINGS

Deadline Date for PZHAC Applications*	PZHAC Meetings at 6 p.m. **	Board of Trustee Meetings at 6 p.m.
March 14, 2013	March 18, 2013	March 25, 2013
March 28, 2013	April 2, 2013	April 8, 2013
April 11, 2013	April 15, 2013	April 22, 2013
May 2, 2013	May 6, 2013	May 13, 2013
May 16, 2013	May 20, 2013	May 27, 2013
May 30, 2013	June 3, 2013	June 10, 2013
June 13, 2013	June 17, 2013	June 24, 2013
June 27, 2013	July 1, 2013	July 8, 2013
July 11, 2013	July 15, 2013	July 22, 2013
August 1, 2013	August 5, 2013	August 12, 2013
August 15, 2013	August 19, 2013	August 26, 2013

The Planning, Zoning and Historical Appropriateness Commission (PZHAC) meets on a bi-weekly basis every 1st and 3rd Monday of every month. The commission reviews the building permits, and other planning or zoning cases and recommends approval or denial to the Board of Trustees. The Community Development staff present all pertinent facts on the cases to the Commission and also forwards information to the Board of Trustees for final decisions. Public input is encouraged at any of the scheduled Planning, Zoning and Historical Appropriateness Commission (PZHAC) meetings.

Town of Mesilla Community Development Department (524-3262)
Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Community Development Coordinator (Ext. 104)

Town of Mesilla Fire Department

The last half of 2012 proved quite busy and productive for the Mesilla Fire Department. With the defeat of the bond issue in March the department was at a loss as to how to replace one of our aging engines. Then the idea came from the firefighters to use the money that had been budgeted for stipends to make payments on a loan for a new pumper. As you may or may not recall the department had transitioned from paid part-time firefighters to volunteers at the end of last fiscal year, effectively allowing the department to nearly double the number of firefighters available to protect the town.

We explored the possibilities with the NM Finance Authority and were able to bring this idea to fruition. We explored the most cost effective options in buying a new apparatus and settled on a Spartan Metro Star X Legend pumper. This new unit was delivered March 19, 2013 and will replace our 1987 pumper. The loan will be paid out over the next 10 years.

The fire department was also able to supply three Automatic External Defibrillators in the Town Hall, Community Center and Public Safety Building. AED's are battery powered devices that can be used to shock the heart of a patient who is in cardiac arrest and are designed to be used by members of the general public who have received Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation training. The AED's

were part a community health initiative grant and came at no cost to the Town of Mesilla.

For 2013 our first priority has been to train on the new apparatus, but first we had to make room for it. The station's configuration did not have the room to house the new truck along with the 1994 pumper we will keep in reserve. Therefore, room was made by removing a storage area in the current bay thus expanding the length enough to fit two full size pumpers into the station. The department

members conducted the demolition work thus saving time and money for the town.

Our biggest project for 2013 will be to prepare for an ISO evaluation in the hopes of lowering our current rating of 5. Our last evaluation was in 2008. We were then able to improve our rating from a 6 to the current 5. If we are successful this will mean more funding from the state fire fund and lower fire insurance premiums for the town's property owners.

TRAINING - MFD completed 205 hours of training in 2012 broken down into the following categories:

Category	Classes	Duration
Cadet Training	5	11.5
Company Training	1	2
Driver Training	6	11
EMS Training	13	23.5
Equipment Training	4	5.5
Firefighter Safety	4	11.5
Fire ground Operations	13	48.5
Hazardous Materials	2	6
Multi Company Training	1	2
Pre-Fire Planning, Inspections	3	5
Rescue Training	7	25
Shift Training	10	20
SOG, Policies & Procedures Review Training	2	4.5
Staff Development	10	21
Tests	1	8
Total		205

Town of Mesilla Fire Department (523-1311)

Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief
Harry Evans, Assistant Chief
Chad Zecha, Assistant Chief

Gabriel Gil, Lieutenant
Michael Graham, Lieutenant
Edward Padilla, Lieutenant
Tausha Sim, EMS Coordinator
Gale Fulte, Chaplain

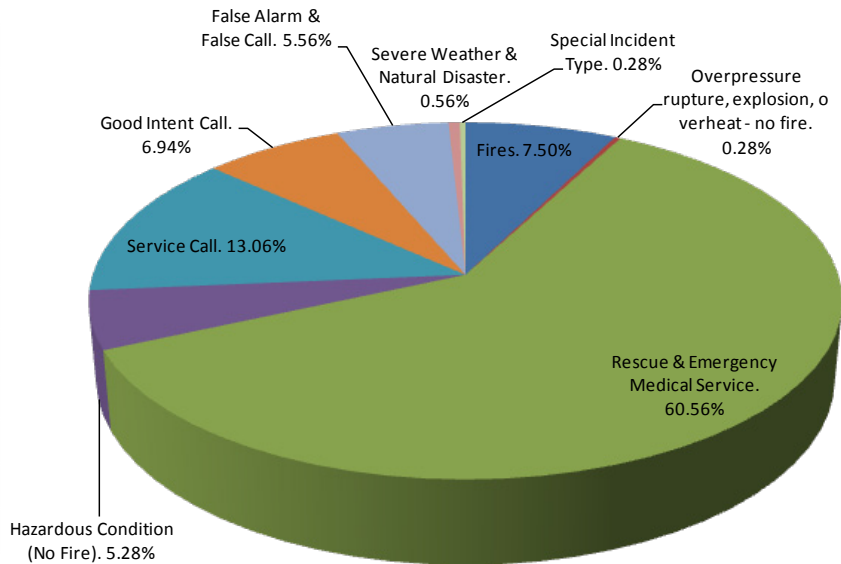
Firefighters:
Andrew Armendariz
Juan Arreola
Richard Hernandez, Jr.
Roman Maese
Neil Padilla
Victor Salas
John Stewart

Fire Cadets:
Gerardo Martinez, Jr.
Alejandro Ochoa

Town of Mesilla Fire Department

CALLS BY TYPE - MFD ended 2012 with 360 calls, a 5% increase over 2011. Calls are broken down into type.

Type of Call	Calls	Percent
Fires	27	7.50%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overhear (no fire)	1	.28%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	218	60.56%
Hazardous Condition (no fire)	19	5.28%
Service Call	47	13.06%
Good Intent Call	25	6.94%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	2	.56%
False Alarm & False Call	20	5.56%
Special Incident Type	1	.28%
Total	360	100%



NEW VEHICLES FOR PUBLIC SAFETY



There is a lot of excitement going on in the Town of Mesilla, including the arrival of a new vehicle for the Marshal's Department (Paid for by a grant), and a brand new Fire Truck for the Fire Department. Firefighters gave up their pay to purchase this truck and welcomed it home with excitement on March 19th. For more pictures and great stories about the fire truck please check out our website! www.mesillanm.gov

Town of Mesilla Community Programs Department

The community programs department has been quite busy during the latter half of 2012 and the first half of 2013, with several events and other responsibilities.

In August of 2012, we were excited to welcome over 500 municipal officials from throughout the state to the Plaza for a night of fun. Attendees had the opportunity to enjoy music by Phat Soul, dine, dance and shop. The event received raving reviews by attendees, and was enjoyed by all.

The annual Diez y Seis de Septiembre Fiesta turned out to be a huge success. It was well attended, and for the first time in several years the Town broke even on the expenses for the Fiesta.

The year ended with the much enjoyed annual events of the Veteran's Day Ceremony, Dia de los Muertos, Mariachi Sundays, and Christmas events. Our special events continue to be a huge draw to our Town, and we are happy that they have become ingrained in the Mesilla culture.

This department works very closely with the Old Mesilla Association (OMA) and merchants to better the community, and we sincerely thank the OMA and all merchants who make donations for our annual Santa on the Plaza and Easter Egg Hunt. Both events are looked forward

to and enjoyed annually by Mesilla Elementary Students.

Another department responsibility is that of recreation. Our 2012 Summer Recreation Program was another success, and we are forever grateful to El Paso Electric for their support of this program. Without them - the program would not be possible. We look forward to our 2013 program which will begin June 10.

Due to renovations at our Community Center and instructor transitions, our Pilates and Children's Dance classes have not been held over the past several months. Now that renovations are complete, we are excited to announce that we will once again be offering Pilates classes, twice a week. See below for details.

Recently, the community programs department has been working closely with the community development department to make some minimal changes to the Mesilla Mercado. We are working closely to ensure that the Mercado is growing and successful. We hope that residents will take the time to visit the vendors weekly on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sundays from 12 to 4 p.m.

The department's focus over the past several months (and continually), will be that of Tourism. We understand that tourism is our number one industry, and

we will continue to make the focus of drawing tourists to our area a number one priority for the department.

With that said, we have been working vigorously on a new town website that encompasses all the information that both tourists and residents need. While the website will be a continual work in progress, we are happy to have launched the site on March 15.

We encourage both residents and tourists to visit the site (www.mesillanm.gov). With time, all major forms will be available online, and coming very soon - you will be able to pay for your utilities online.

Within the tourism focus, the department, together with the OMA, has been working on a grant from the New Mexico Department of Tourism. This grant would provide the money that the town needs to advertise and promote the area, to hopefully maximize the amount of tourists that we have visiting our wonderful town.

As we look toward the rest of 2013, the department has plenty of goals to reach. We will work vigorously to ensure that we are offering the best events and recreation options, and will also continue to make tourism the number one priority in the department, for the overall success of the Town.

Pilates Classes

Tuesdays & Thursdays
4:45 to 5:30
Mesilla Community Center
Suggested Donation: \$3 to \$5

Argentine Tango Lessons

Tuesdays at 6:30
Mesilla Community Center
Cover: \$5

2103 Summer Recreation Program

June 10 - July 26
Mondays - Fridays
1:00 to 4:30 p.m.
Ages 6 to 12
Registration:
May 14 at 5:30 p.m.
Mesilla Town Hall

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta

May 4: Noon to 10 p.m.
with Annimo from 6:30 to 10 p.m.

May 5: Noon to 7 p.m.
with Fierro Band from 4 to 7 p.m.

Special thanks to Andele Restaurant
for continued sponsorship
of our greased pole!

Town of Mesilla Community Programs Department (524-3262)

Ashley Echavarria, *Special Events Coordinator/Recreation Director* (ext. 116)

For full calendar of events visit www.mesillanm.gov

Town of Mesilla Public Works Department

Pervious Concrete

Pervious concrete has been installed in two locations in Mesilla

- 1) The intersection of Calle Parian/ Calle Tercera
- 2) Calle de Guadalupe/ Calle Correo.

Pervious Concrete allows water to pass through it instead of trapping water on top like normal concrete. Typical concrete is made using a mixture of cement, sand and gravel. Pervious concrete does not have sand added to the mixture. This means that the sand does NOT fill any of the void space between the gravel. Thus, water can pass through it.

How can this benefit Mesilla?

- ✓ Can be used in locations where surface drainage is not possible
- ✓ Can be used in small areas
- ✓ Can be used in conjunction with other materials, such as asphalt, bricks, pavers, etc.
- ✓ It can be a solution to fixing potholes and maintaining roadways.
- ✓ Can be a free draining barrier between planters, tree wells, flower beds, etc.

Pervious concrete will replenish your local water... Rain that falls in Mesilla stays in Mesilla. To watch a demonstration on pervious concrete visit our website at: www.mesillanm.gov



Public Works Grant Projects Completed:

2012

Sewer Line

- ✓ Calle de Guadalupe from Calle de Sur to the cemetery lift stations were placed at 11 homes.

Road Projects

- ✓ Calle Del Sur Phase VII from Calle Oeste to Lateral (LGRF)
- ✓ Intersection of Calle Oeste to Calle Santa Ana (LGRF)
- ✓ Calle de Guadalupe from cemetery to Calle Del Norte (MAP)
- ✓ Calle Parian pavement overlay

Community Center Renovations

- ✓ Phase IV Community Center Improvements was completed on February 11, 2013

Pending Grant Projects:

2013

- ✓ The remainder of Calle Tercera from Calle de Cura to Calle Parian
- ✓ Restore the Plaza kiosk and lighting
- ✓ Public Safety Building
- ✓ Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC)/EPA Water Line

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO OUR RESIDENTS/BUSINESS OWNERS:

Lately the Public Works department has been repairing broken water meters due to residents tampering with Mesilla water meters. The Town of Mesilla will be charging the resident/business owner for tampered broken water valves including labor.

If for any reason a resident/business owner needs to shut off their water please contact the Town Hall or the Emergency on-call phone number 650-8830.

It is my recommendation for residents/business owners to place a shut off valve immediately after the Mesilla town meter if the resident/business owner wants to shut off their own water due to a water leak.

Mesilla Town Code 13.10.140

Interference with municipal utility services equipment

It shall be unlawful for any person not having authority to do so, to open

any water hydrant or tamper with any utility service furnished by the municipality to customers, or to in any other way remove, replace, repair, tamper, damage, or trespass upon any equipment or premises belonging to the municipality, or any equipment or premises belonging to the municipality, or any premises to which the municipality has as easement or right-of-way for any utility service. [Prior code sec. 10-1-14]

**Town of Mesilla Public Works Department (524-3262)
On Call Emergency Number (24/7): 650-8830**

Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director (ext. 103)
Sean Lucero, Foreman (ext. 113)

Public Works Staff:
Felipe Barron
Claude Mauldin

**TOWN OF MESILLA BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION**

Board of Trustees

Nora L. Barraza

Mayor

Carlos Arzabal

Mayor Pro-tem

Sam Bernal

Trustee

Jesus Caro, Jr.

Trustee

Linda Flores

Trustee

**Planning, Zoning &
Historical**

**Appropriateness
Commission**

Dax Contreras

Russell Hernandez

Yolanda Lucero

Roman Prieto

Kim Seifert

LOOKING FOR OLD PHOTOS

Do you have any old photos of the
Mesilla Community Center?

If you do, we'd like to make copies of them!
Stop by Mesilla Town Hall or e-mail scanned
images to mesillaevents@comcast.net

AMIGOS NEEDED

The J. Paul Taylor Visitors Center is seeking
volunteers to help greet tourists and
to help in the visitors center.

Interested applicants contact Ashley Echavarria
(575) 524-3262 ext. 116

Attention Veterans

File your claims with the DAV at Mesilla Town Hall

Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Mesilla Town Hall Conference Room

ATTENTION RESIDENTS



Due to limited staff there is NOT a secretary on
duty at the Public Safety building. The best way
to reach an officer for non-emergency incidences
or report requests is by calling Central Dispatch:

(575) 526-0795
Select Option 6

For all emergencies OR when in doubt: CALL 911



Town of Mesilla

P.O. Box 10

Mesilla, NM 88046

(575) 524-3262

www.mesillanm.gov

www.facebook.com/oldmesilla

**NOW ACCEPTING
ONLINE UTILITY
PAYMENTS**

***Check out our new website
and all of the great features!***

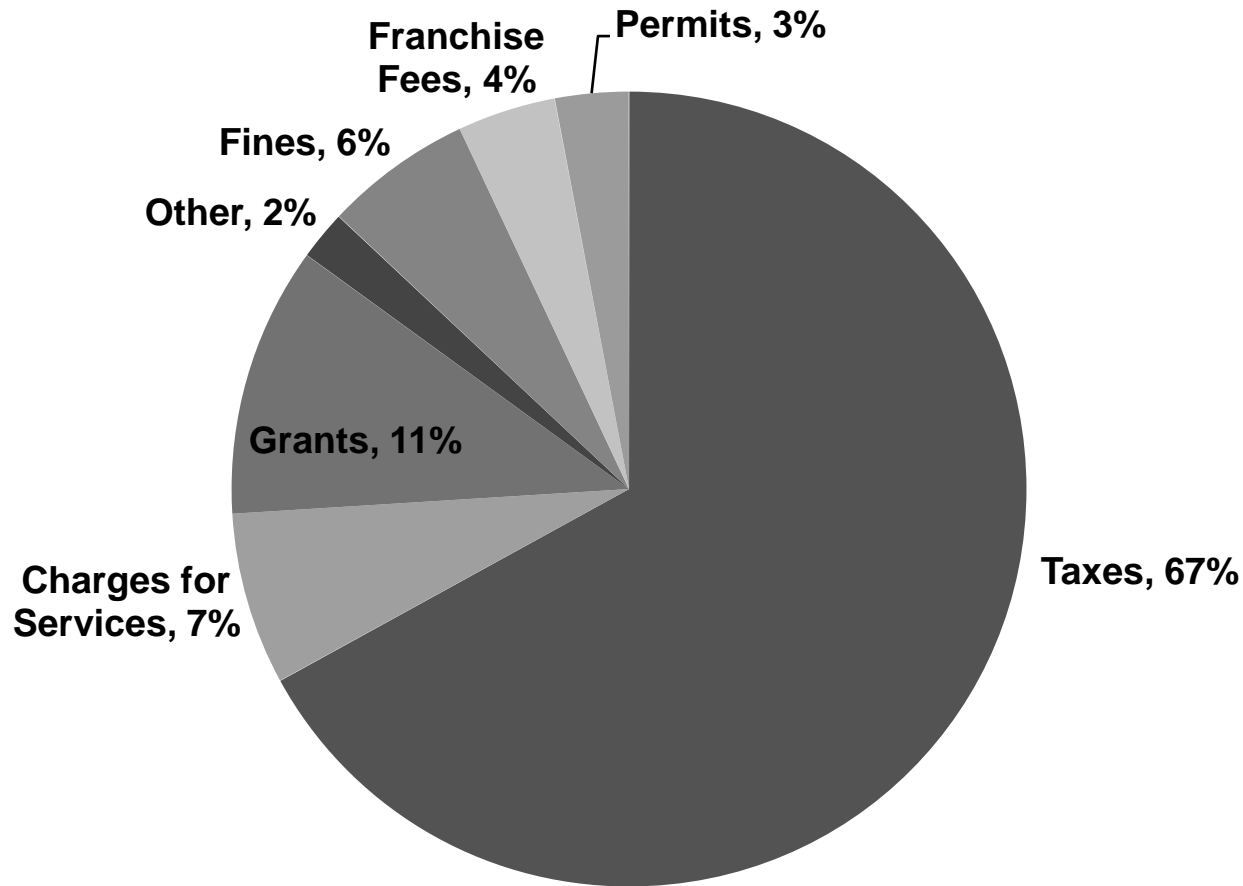
www.mesillanm.gov





Funding Town Services

Where Does the Funding Come From?

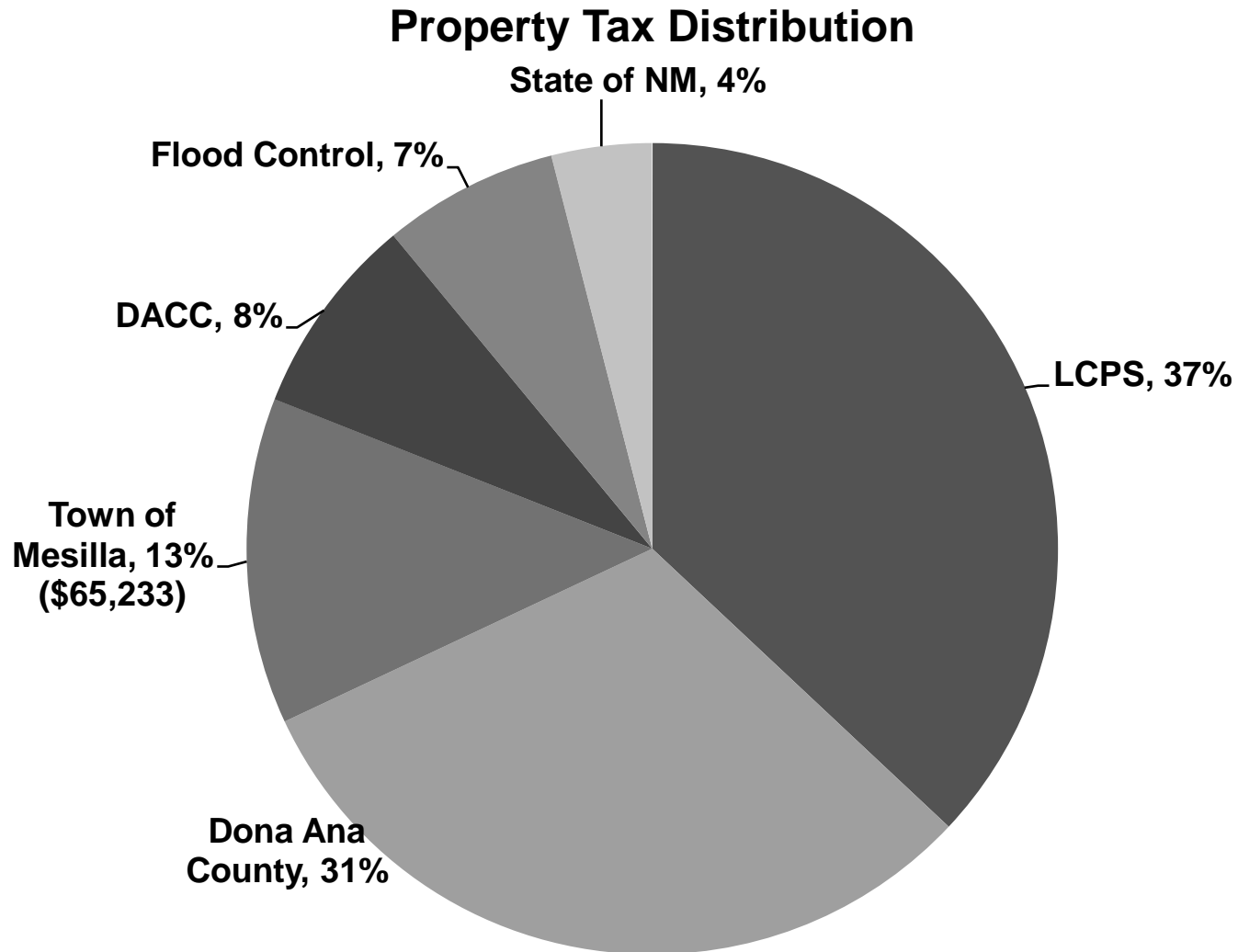


Funding Sources to Run the Town



Property Tax

Where does it go?

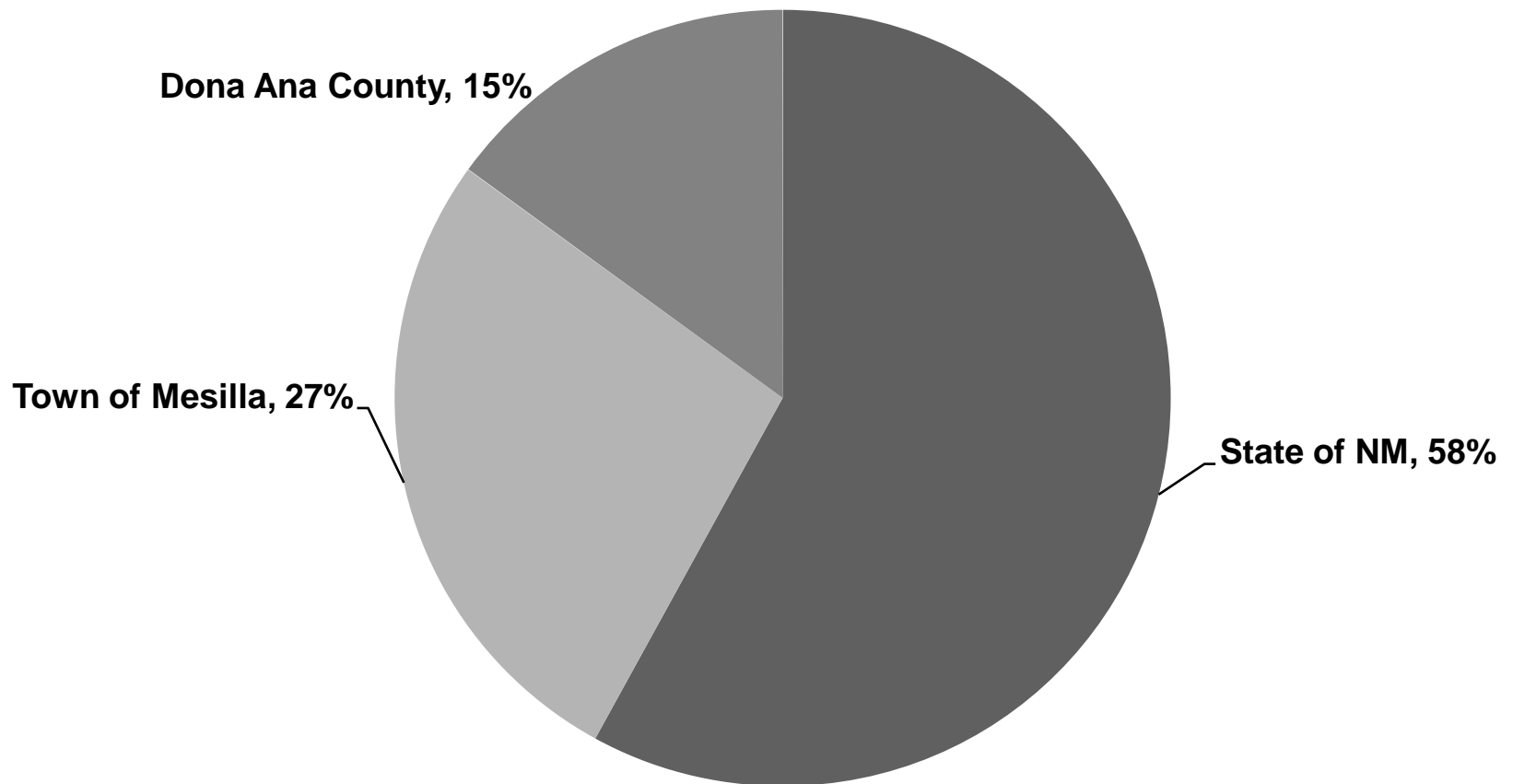




GRT (Sales Tax)

Where does it go?

Gross Receipts Tax Distribution

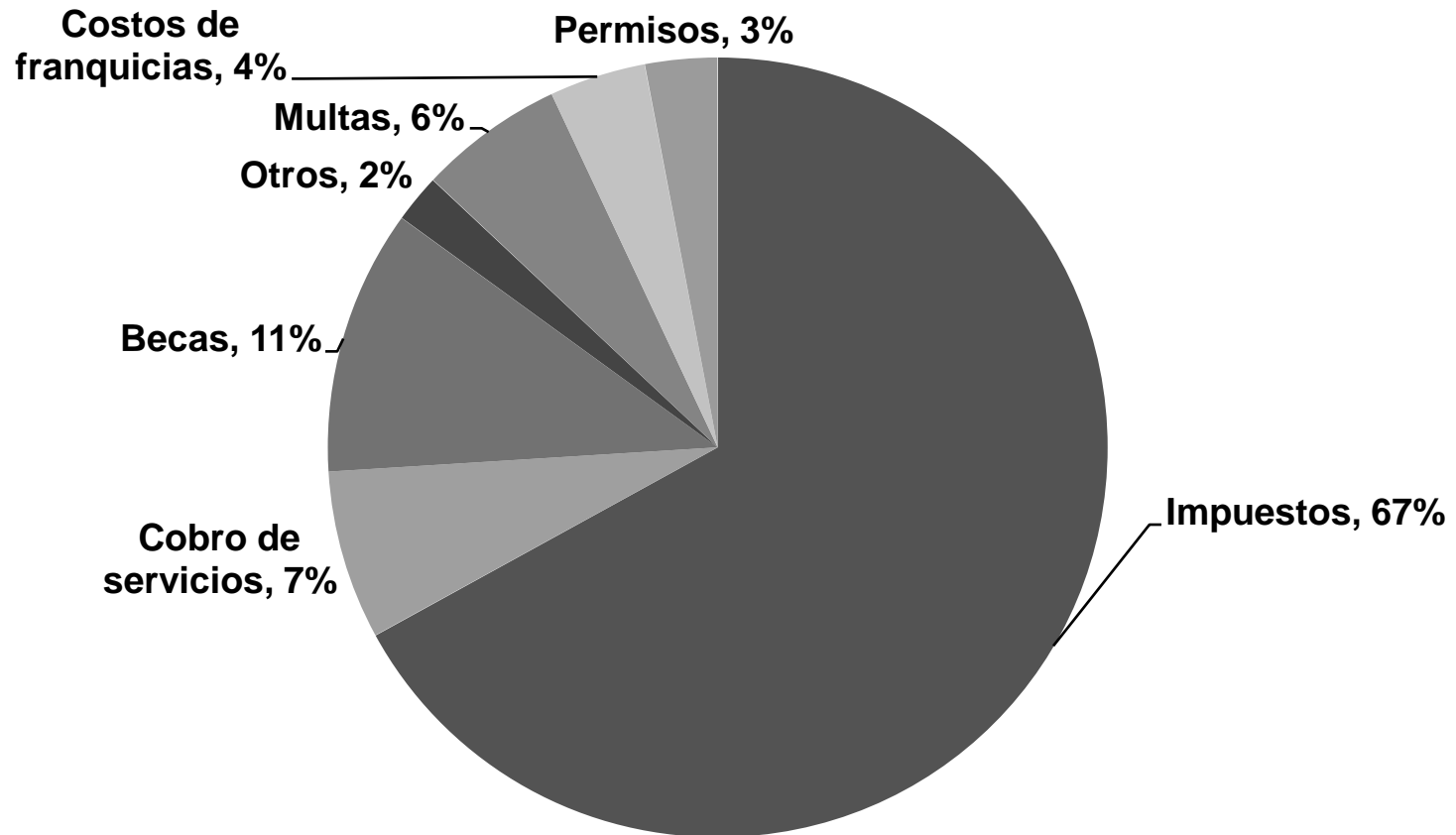




FONDOS PARA MEJORAR LOS SERVICIOS DEL PUEBLO

¿DE DONDE SALEN ESTOS FONDOS?

Estas son las fuentes de donde salen los fondos para mantener el pueblo

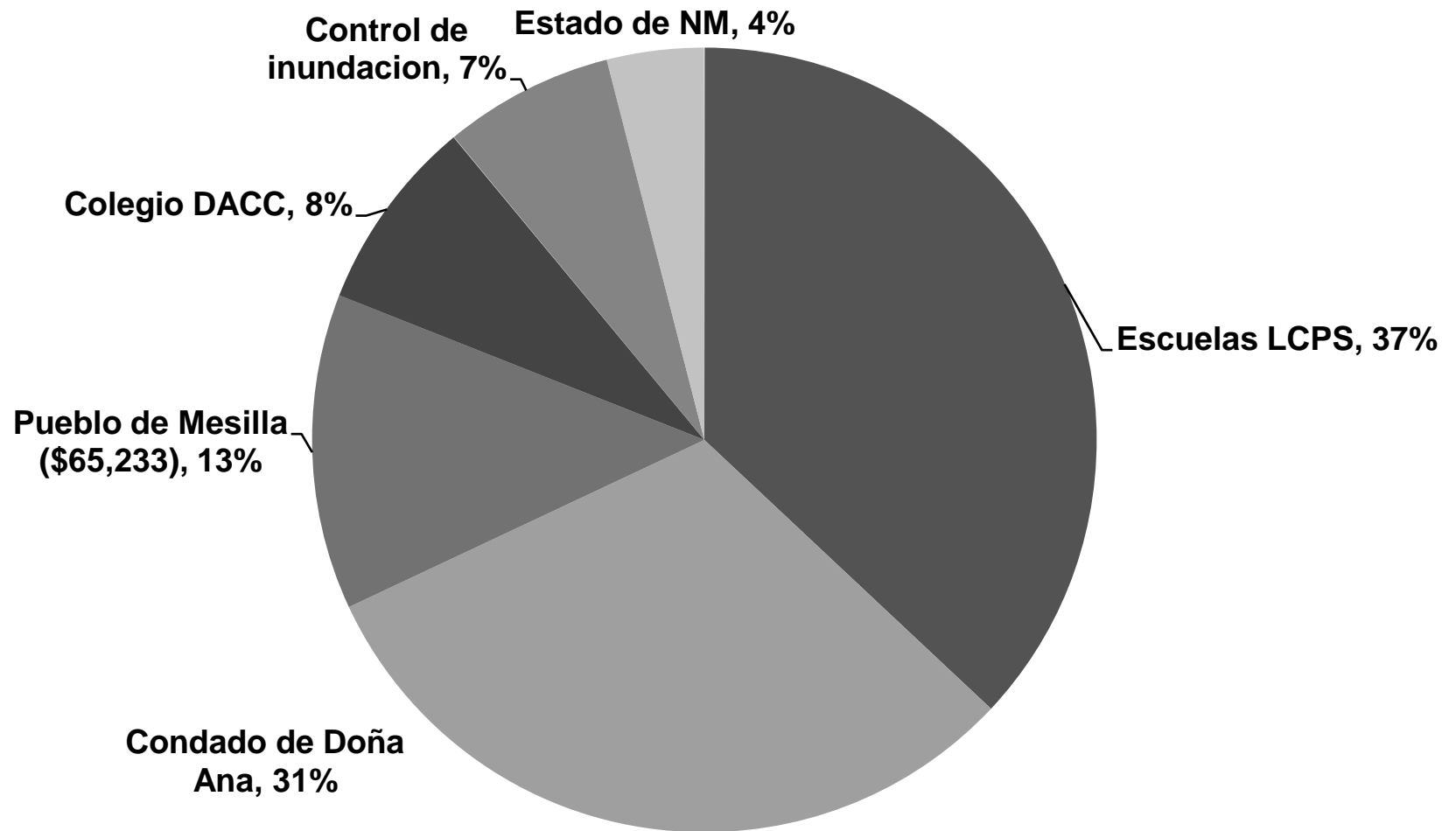




IMPUESTOS DE PROPIEDAD

¿DONDE VAN?

La distribucion de estos impuestos





GRT (IMPUESTOS DE VENTAS)

¿DONDE VAN?

Recibos totales de impuestos distribuidos

